

### Freed mustangs prefer pen

*Oes News 29 July 1987*

VERNON, Tooele County (AP) — A corral of 34 wild horses rounded up by the Bureau of Land Management was opened Sunday night, but most of the animals remained in the pen near food and water, officials said.

Sixteen of the 34 horses rounded up from the Cedar Mountain area for adoption left the corral when it was opened by an unknown person during the night, but even those 16 didn't go far, Salt Lake District BLM spokesman Scott Brayton said.

"They knew a good thing with all that food and water," Brayton said.



Two Cantabrian farmers plant their field using a work horse. A dog scampers about their feet.





Paul Ferguson and his champion horse.

## Local Receives Fourth Place at Western U.S. Adult Team Horse Championships

Paul Ferguson completed his first horse trial with a fourth place on Halloween, his 13th birthday. He shared the prize with Sisa, his nine year TB/Morgan mare.

Paul and his mom, Kitty Ferguson, competed with 125 other riders from all over the country at Silk Purse Ranch just outside Las Vegas at the Western U.S. Adult Team Championships. Kitty and her Appy, Snowy River, took fifth in their division.

Horse trials are three phase events which began as military competitors between cavalry units. The first day is a dressage test

showing the horse's training and obedience. The second day is an endurance phase galloping cross-country with jumping along the way. The final phase, familiar as show jumping, proves that both horse and rider are tough enough to compete even at the endurance test of the day before.

Paul has been riding in the mountains since he was six but only started jumping and competing this summer. He rides and takes lessons with the Timpnagos Pony club. His mare was a nice trail horse but definitely not a show

horse. Kitty began training her last February, took a second at their first horse trial in Ogden then turned her over to Paul. Paul showed her successfully at both hunter-jumper shows and dressage shows. They do a lot of riding in the mountains and learned to jump cross-country.

The majority of top riders in this sport are men. It's hard, exciting and, at the upper levels, can be dangerous. Kitty says she is too smart (and old) to want to compete that seriously, but Paul is thinking in terms of the 2000 Olympics!

# Charges Pending in Death of Ten Horses

22 Mar 1989

Ten horses were reported lying dead in the North Fields area of the County on March 14. Sheriff Edd Thacker said they apparently died during the heavy snow storms and low temperatures last month but couldn't be seen until the snow melted.

He said the animals were lined up and appeared to have been seeking shelter near a haystack that was in a locked yard. He said he thought they were probably weak from hunger and then succumbed to the weather.

The owner of the animals said

her sons had tried to get to the yard and unlock the gate so the horses could get to the hay, but couldn't get across the snow, even in a four-wheel drive vehicle. Thacker said the gate has now been unlocked and that 13 additional horses that survived appear that they will be all right. However, he said the owner has been ordered to have a veterinarian examine them and report back on their condition.

The matter is being investigated by the Humane Society and charges may be filed, Thacker said.



# Adoption program has found homes for nearly 100,000 wild horses, burros

By Bruce Hills  
Deseret News staff writer 3-19-90

Nearly 100,000 wild horses and burros from Utah and nine other Western states have been adopted by people in every state of the union except Hawaii during the past 12 years.

John Boyles, chief of the Division of Wild Horses and Burros for the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C., told the Deseret News there are about 42,000 wild horses, or mustangs, and 5,000 burros running loose in the West.

All are protected under a law passed in 1971 and amended in 1976 and 1978. He said the animals multiply at the rate of 15 percent to 20 percent a year and the only way to reduce the population of wild horses and burros is to hold regular round-ups, sometimes aided by helicopters, and then hold adoption events — all over the United States, including Alaska.

"People pay \$125 to adopt a wild horse or burro and after a year and if

they have cared for the animal properly, they are given title to it," Boyles said.

Utah has nearly 2,000 wild horses on its western desert ranges and in the southern part of the state and a few wild burros. Most of the wild burros are in Arizona and California and a few others are found in Nevada.

In addition to Utah, wild horses are found in Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana.

Boyles said the BLM has no trouble finding people to adopt burros as they are highly sought after. They have no trouble, either, finding people to adopt young wild horses and those that have good blood lines.

"Wild horses are all mixed breeds and range in age from yearlings to 20 years old or older. Some resemble quarter horses, Arabians and even large draft horses. At adoption events, we have a 90 percent success rate of adoption of horses.

"The older horses that are not

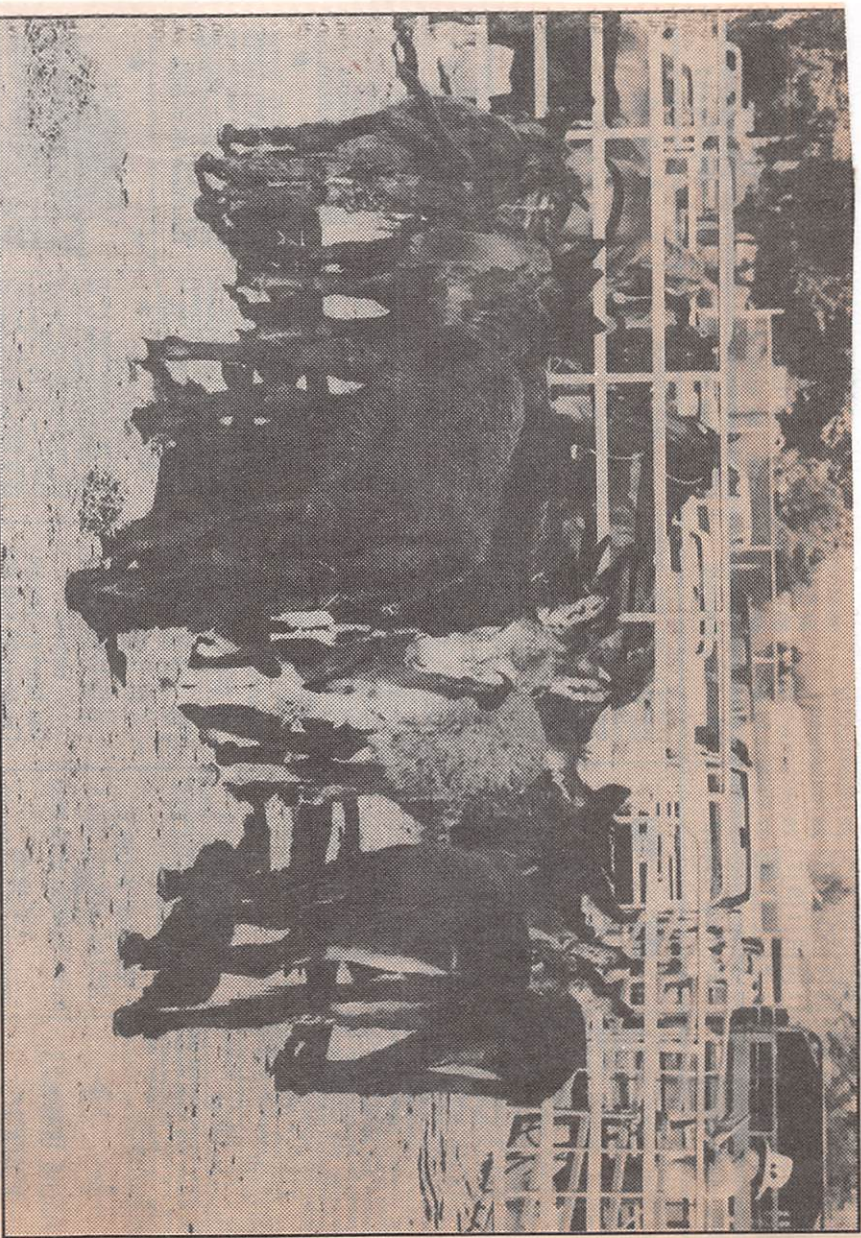
adopted at our adoption events are sent to one of two wild horse sanctuaries where they can live out their lives. One sanctuary in South Dakota has 33,000 acres and one in Oklahoma has 18,000 acres."

He said some of the other horses not adopted are taken to prisons in New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and California where inmates spend two months or more breaking the horses, gently, to halter.

"We certainly don't break horses like the old bronco busting days. Our methods are as kind and as humane as possible."

Once a wild horse is broken to halter, it is much more sought after for adoption and generally has no trouble finding an owner who will be happy to have it.

Boyles said his department checks on every complaint of misuse or cruelty to the wild horses and burros and checks on the condition of its wild horses and burros after they have been adopted, on a random basis.



PHOTOGRAPHY/ BRUCE HILLS  
For \$125, a wild horse or burro can be adopted at events like one held in West Jordan last year.



# Horses are slaughtered, not 'adopted,' GAO says

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Thousands of wild horses have been slaughtered, often after being cruelly mistreated, through a federal program that was supposed to put them in the hands of caring owners, a government study has found.

In several cases, officials at the Bureau of Land Management ignored warnings the horses were being acquired so they could be sold to slaughterhouses, according to a General Accounting Office report scheduled to be released Monday.

GAO's study also finds little evidence the horses have been overgrazing federal lands — the reason for putting them up for adoption. Instead, it concluded, the program has been run largely to satisfy ranchers who graze cattle on the land. In fact, ranchers have been allowed to increase the number of cattle on some federal grasslands after the horses have been taken off.

At least 4,000 wild horses were sold for slaughter from 1985 through 1988 by horse traders who took advantage of the Bureau of Land Management's "adopt-a-horse" program. But GAO indicated the same fate probably met most of the 16,000 other horses given away through one part of the program, which allowed dealers to acquire hundreds of hard-to-adopt, older horses without paying the customary fee.

"By its very design, the fee-waiver program was a prescription for commercial exploitation of wild horses," the report concluded.

The fee-waiver program was canceled in 1988 after reports of widespread abuse and complaints from animal welfare groups.

John Boyles, chief of the Bureau of Land Management's wild horses division, would not comment Friday on the GAO report because he said he has not reviewed it.

The program has cost \$81 million since 1985, an average of \$1,500 a horse. It has grown ever more elaborate. The government has tried to respond to complaints the horses were too wild by "gentling" them at state prisons where they are halter-trained.

Some wild horses have spent more than a year in prison, at taxpayers' expense, despite evidence the training is often poorly performed.

About 42,000 horses run wild on BLM land. "Adopt-a-horse" first began as a widely praised government solution to what was perceived as an overpopulation of wild horses. Since 1980, 60,000 horses have been removed from federal lands and sold to citizens, who can adopt up to four horses for \$125 each.

# Mountain Valley Stampede Royalty Selected



Left to right: Kimba Burgener, Princess; Valerie Gines, first attendant; Chelsea Sweat, second attendant, and Amy Mitchell, Miss Congeniality.

Robbi Ryan, daughter of Mick and Barbara Ryan, was selected on Friday, Aug. 10 to reign over the Mountain Valley Stampede as the 1990-91 Rodeo Queen. Dennie McKenzie, daughter of Dennis and Peggy McKenzie, was chosen as first attendant and she also won the Miss Horsemanship Award. Nichole Dansie, daughter of Charles and Carol Dansie, was chosen as second attendant and was also voted as Miss Congeniality.

The Junior Royalty was announced at the same time. Kimba Burgener, daughter of Kelvin and Dianne Burgener, was selected as

Princess and also received the Miss Horsemanship Award; first attendant was Valerie Gines, daughter of Val and Jan Gines; second attendant was Chelsea Sweat, daughter of Allen and Jan Sweat; Amy Mitchell, daughter of Gordon and Cherie Mitchell, was voted as Miss Congeniality.

These girls will represent Wasatch County as the Mountain Valley Stampede Royalty during the coming year at rodeos throughout the state.

Congratulate to them as well as all the contestants on their outstanding performances.



## Open Horse Show Aug. 6

The Wasatch County Fair Open Horse Show will be held Monday, Aug. 6 at 9 a.m.

World Renaissance, featuring the Isles of: Santorini, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Mycondos, plus Kusadasi and Istanbul, Turkey, 34 meals included - the warm soothing sun that sparkles on the blue waters of the Aegean Sea for more than 300 days of the year and the warmth of the Greek people have made this a choice vacation destination. All shore excursions and admission fees are included in the trip. There will be no hidden expenses. You do not have to be a Senior Citizen to go on this trip. It is open to everyone no matter what age. We have brochures at the Center.

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